

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----105109 161905Z /41
O 161843Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9486
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 11163

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DEPARTMENT FOR EUR ONLY

E.O. 11652: ADS (DECLASSIFY AUGUST 1, 1978)
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: PROPOSED PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENTS AT PUBLIC
APPEARANCE AT THE KONGRESSHALLE IN BERLIN

REFS: (A) STATE 147755 (B) USBER 1416

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUESTS IN REFTELS, THERE
FOLLOWS A SUGGESTED OPENING STATEMENT FOR THE PRESIDENT
TO USE AT THE KONGRESSHALLE TOWN MEETING:

2. SALUTATIONS:

BEGIN TEXT

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO MEET WITH YOU
TODAY IN THIS HALL, A HALL BUILT BY THE COOPERATION OF
AMERICANS AND BERLINERS TO SYMBOLIZE OUR COMMON DEDICA-
TION TO FREE SPEECH AND TO THE FREE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS.

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THIS HAS BEEN FOR ME A DEEPLY MOVING DAY. I HAVE
SEEN AMERICAN AND GERMAN SOLDIERS WORKING AND TRAINING
TOGETHER TO DEFEND FREEDOM. I HAVE COME TO BERLIN AND
HAVE SEEN A MEMORIAL TO THOSE WHO DIED IN THE AIRLIFT
AS PART OF THAT STRUGGLE. I HAVE SEEN THE WALL, A
SYMBOL OF MAN'S FUTILE ATTEMPT TO DOMINATE OTHERS AND

TO PREVENT THEM FROM BEING FREE.

I HAVE ASKED FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH YOU BECAUSE I FEEL A DEEP PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO THE FREE AND OPEN EXCHANGE OF IDEAS. I KNOW THAT WE LIVE IN A COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT TIME. I AM CONVINCED, HOWEVER, THAT THOMAS JEFFERSON WAS RIGHT IN HIS CONVICTION THAT THE PEOPLE CAN UNDERSTAND EVEN THE MOST COMPLICATED QUESTIONS BECAUSE THOSE COMPLICATED QUESTIONS CAN ULTIMATELY BE REDUCED TO VERY DIRECT AND CONCRETE TERMS.

BERLINERS KNOW BETTER THAN ANYBODY ELSE THAT WE LIVE IN A WORLD DIVIDED AGAINST THE WILL OF ITS PEOPLE. THEY MUST DEAL WITH THIS EVERY DAY IN THEIR OWN CITY.

I, TOO, MUST DEAL WITH THIS DIVIDED WORLD. SO MUST ALL AMERICANS.

THE DIVIDED WORLD MEANS THAT WE MUST LIVE AT A TIME OF BOTH COMPETITION AND COOPERATION.

WE MUST COMPETE WITH THE SOVIET UNION BECAUSE IT HAS CHOSEN COMPETITION. THIS MEANS THAT WE MUST MAINTAIN STRONG ARMED FORCES AND THAT WE MUST CONTINUE TO MODERNIZE THOSE FORCES AND TO HAVE THEM READY FOR

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-----105268 161907Z /41

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 11163

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ANY EMERGENCY THAT MIGHT ARISE. IT MEANS THAT AMERICANS MUST STAND GUARD IN MANY PLACES, INCLUDING THIS CITY, AND THAT OTHERS MUST STAND GUARD AS WELL. IT MEANS GREAT BURDENS AND GREAT RESPONSIBILITIES, BUT WE ACCEPT WHOSE WILLINGLY AND EVEN GLADLY BECAUSE OF THEIR PURPOSE.

HOWEVER, WE CAN NOT SIMPLY LIVE IN THE PREPARATION AND EXPECTATION OF CONFLICT AND CONFRONTATION. IT IS OUR DUTY TO OURSELVES AND TO THE FUTURE OF MANKIND THAT WE SHOULD DO ALL WE CAN TO AVOID CONFLICT. THEREFORE, EVEN AS WE COMPETE AND MAINTAIN OUR MILITARY VIGIL, WE MUST TRY TO REDUCE THE FRICTION THAT MIGHT CREATE A WAR AND WE MUST TRY TO DEVELOP SUCH BRIDGES OF UNDERSTANDING AS WE CAN. WE BELIEVE THOSE BRIDGES CAN HELP NOT ONLY TO AVOID WAR BUT ALSO TO REDUCE THE BURDENS OF OUR DEFENSE OBLIGATIONS.

NOR SHOULD WE IGNORE THE ADVANTAGES THAT COOPERATION CAN BRING. WE BELIEVE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT ON BERLIN HAS BROUGHT REAL BENEFITS TO THIS CITY, AND WE REMAIN PLEDGED TO SUPPORT CONFIDENTIAL

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IT. WE ALSO REMAIN PREPARED FOR COOPERATION ON OTHER MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST.

I CAN ASSURE YOU, HOWEVER, THAT WE WILL NOT LET OUR EFFORTS TO COOPERATE WITH THOSE WHO HAVE CHOSEN TO BE OUR ADVERSARIES MODERATE OUR DETERMINATION TO FREEDOM OR OUR COMMITMENT TO THOSE WHO HAVE JOINED US IN ITS DEFENSE.

I AM PROUD TO BE ABLE TO SAY THIS IN BERLIN, BECAUSE BERLINERS UNDERSTAND IT BETTER THAN MOST. IT IS, HOWEVER, A MESSAGE THAT MUST BE UNDERSTOOD EVERYWHERE.

I LOOK FORWARD VERY MUCH TO OUR DISCUSSION, AND I HOPE WE CAN NOW BEGIN YOUR QUESTIONS.

END TEXT
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN11163
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: HR IS ALSO ST
Executive Order: AS (DECLASSIFY AUGUST 1, 1978)
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780252-0590
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780652/aaaabsrh.tel
Line Count: 168
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c02de287-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, ONLY
Reference: 78 STATE 147755, 78 USBERLIN 1416
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2327791
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENTS AT PUBLIC APPEARANCE AT THE KONGRESSHALLE IN BERLIN
TAGS: OVIP, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: STATE USBERLIN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c02de287-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014